

STATE OF MARYLAND

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Shari T. Wilson, Secretary

BILL NO: HB 1092

COMMITTEE: Environmental Matters

POSITION: Support

**TITLE: Environment – Recycling Receptacles – Events
and Forests and Parks**

BILL ANALYSIS: This bill requires State agencies conducting an event that is open to the public to provide receptacles designated for the collection of these recyclable containers if providing beverages in recyclable plastic, aluminum, or glass containers. This includes any permanent or temporary State office, department, division or unit, bureau, board, commission, task force, authority, institution, State college or university, and any other unit of State government, whether executive, legislative, or judicial, and any subunits of State government. It also requires the Department of Natural Resources to provide receptacles designated for the collection of recyclable containers at State forests and parks. The State agencies would have to ensure that the containers collected are transferred to an appropriate location for reuse or recycling.

POSITION AND RATIONALE:

The Department supports House Bill 1092. The Department is currently responsible for coordinating with DGS and other State agencies to develop recycling plans that reduce by recycling the amount of the solid waste stream generated for disposal by State government by at least 20 percent or to an amount that is determined practical and economically feasible but no less than 10 percent.

This legislation would require State agencies to recycle beverage containers that are routinely collected as part of municipal recycling programs when State agencies hold public events. State agencies that are

currently recycling should be able to easily accommodate this requirement and make beverage container recycling is available to the public.

Waste diversion and recycling saves energy, reduces green house gasses and other pollutants generated in the manufacturing process and at landfills, saves natural resources, and reduces the amount of waste disposed at waste disposal facilities. Consider the following money-saving scenarios based upon 2007 State government recycling data with an average Maryland sanitary landfill tipping fee of \$52 per ton:

- Maryland State government realized \$1,317,888 of avoided disposal costs by recycling 25,344 tons of MRA material.
- If each State agency achieves a 20% recycling rate by increasing its MRA recycling tonnage, \$131,082 in additional avoided disposal costs would be realized for a potential total savings of \$1,448,970.

Even in this time of lowered market returns on recyclables, there continue to be avoided disposal costs with recycling aluminum, glass, and plastic beverage containers. State government should set an example by increasing its recycling of these materials.

FOR MORE INFORMATION,
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